



**CALIFORNIA UNDERGROUND FACILITIES SAFE EXCAVATION BOARD  
INVESTIGATION DIVISION  
INVESTIGATION REPORT**

**DATE:** September 11, 2023  
**CASE No.:** 23NTS00001

**Violations:**

- Government Code § 4216.2(b): Failure to notify the Regional Notification Center before excavating.
- Government Code § 4216.4(c)(2): Failure to call 911 emergency services upon causing damage.
- Government Code § 4216.4(c)(3): Failure to report damage to the Regional Notification Center within 48 hours.

**Executive Summary:**

On July 17, 2023, ARK Mechanical, doing business as ARK Plumbing, excavated using a shovel without first contacting the Regional Notification Center and damaged a one-half-inch Adyl natural gas line operated by the Southern California Gas Company. After causing the damage, ARK Plumbing called the Southern California Gas Company but did not telephone 911 or, notify the Regional Notification Center within 48 hours after the incident.

**Reporting Party Information:**

Southern California Gas Company  
555 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, California 90013

**Date of Incident:**

July 17, 2023



Palm Desert, California 92211

**Ticket:**

None

**Operator:**

Southern California Gas Company  
555 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, California 90013

**Excavator:**

Esteban Simental, Jr.  
ARK Plumbing  
P.O. Box 1205  
Coachella, California 92236

**Facility Type Damaged:**

½-inch Adyl natural gas line

**Investigation:**

**Notification of the Incident**

On July 17, 2023, Southern California Gas Company submitted notification of this incident to the California Underground Safety Board. The notification stated that ARK Plumbing damaged a gas line with a shovel while looking for a water line without first notifying DigAlert. (Exh. 1.<sup>1</sup>) The case was assigned to Investigator Gabrielle Zeps (Investigator).

**Identity of the Excavator**

Government Code section 4216(h) defines an excavator to be “any person, firm, contractor or subcontractor, owner, operator, utility, association, corporation, partnership, business trust, public agency, or other entity that, with their, or his or her, own employees or equipment performs any excavation.”

ARK Mechanical is currently licensed by the California State Licensing Board, license number 921951. (Exh. 2.) During his interview with the Investigator, Esteban Simental stated that he is the owner of ARK Mechanical and that “ARK Plumbing” is a fictitious business name, and that Esteban Simental, Jr., who was digging and damaged the line, is his son (Exh. 6.)



Photo 1, provided by Southern California Gas Company, depicts ARK Plumbing’s truck at the location where the damage occurred.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibit 1, is an Underground Safety No-Ticket Notification which is being used on a trial basis by the Board for reporting of “no ticket” damage incidents by the Southern California Gas Company. On the public copy of the notification attached as Exhibit 1, Board staff has redacted the name and contact information for the Southern California Gas Company employee who submitted the form.

### **Ark Plumbing Did Not Contact the Regional Notification Center Before Excavating**

Government Code section 4216.2(b) states that an excavator planning to excavate shall notify the appropriate regional notification center of the excavator's intent to excavate at least two working days, and not more than 14 calendar days, before beginning that excavation.

On August 16, 2023, Amber Dahl, Safety Awareness Director for Underground Service Alert of Southern California, sent an email stating, "After searching our records from 1/17/23 through 7/17/23, we were unable to find any DigAlert tickets for the location at [REDACTED] in Palm Desert." (Exh. 5.)

During his interviews with the Investigator, Esteban Simental stated that ARK Plumbing did not contact the regional notification center before digging at [REDACTED], Palm Desert, California 92211. (Exhs. 6&8.)

### **Excavation & Damage to the Gas Line**

During his interview with the Investigator, Esteban Simental, Jr., stated that he was digging a trench with a shovel at the residence when the shovel blade pushed through the natural gas line which was at a depth of approximately two feet. He had not expected to encounter a natural gas line because he believed it would be down four or more feet and he wasn't trenching that deep. (Exh. 7.)

After he damaged the gas line, Simental, Jr., folded the natural gas line and put a strap on it to stop the flow of the leaking gas. He then called the "gas company" and told them about the damage. Representatives of the "gas company" arrived about 15 minutes after the call and repaired the line. (Exh. 7.)

### **ARK Plumbing Did Not Call 911**

Government Code section 4216.4(c)(2) requires an excavator to call 911 emergency services upon discovering or causing damage to a gas or hazardous liquid pipeline subsurface installation in which the damage results in the escape of any flammable, toxic, or corrosive gas or liquid.

Esteban Simental did not contact 911 after the damage occurred. (Exh. 8)

### **Ark Plumbing Did Not Contact the Regional Notification Center**

Government Code section 4216.4(c)(3) requires an excavator discovering or causing damage to notify the Regional Notification Center within 48 hours of discovering or causing the damage.

During his interviews with the Investigator, Esteban Simental stated that they (ARK Plumbing) did not contact the regional notification center after damaging the Southern California Gas Company natural gas line (Exh. 6&8.)

### **Findings:**

1. ARK Plumbing did not contact the Regional Notification Center before digging a trench with a shovel on July 17, 2023, at a residence located at [REDACTED], Palm Desert, California 92211.
2. ARK Plumbing did not call 911 emergency services after damaging the natural gas line at the residence.
3. ARK Plumbing failed to notify the Regional Notification Center of the damage it caused

to the natural gas line within 48 hours of damaging it on July 17, 2023.

Investigator Name	Supervisor Name
Gabrielle Zeps	Brittney Branaman
Signature	Signature
<i>Gabrielle L Zeps</i>	<i>Brittney Branaman</i>

**Exhibit List:**

Exhibit No.	Description	Date	Received From
1	“Underground Safety No-Ticket” notification from the Southern California Gas Company	Received on 7/17/ 2023	Southern California Gas Company
2	Contractor’s License Detail for License No. 921951 obtained from the Contractors State License Board website	Downloaded on 7/20/2023	California Contractors State License Board website at <a href="https://www.cslb.ca.gov/online/services/checklicensell/checklicense.aspx">https://www.cslb.ca.gov/online/services/checklicensell/checklicense.aspx</a>
3	Business Search information for ARK Plumbing, Inc. (2868379) obtained from the Secretary of State website	Downloaded on 7/27/2023	California Secretary of State website at <a href="https://bizfileonline.sos.ca.gov/search/business">https://bizfileonline.sos.ca.gov/search/business</a>
4	Business Search information for ARK Mechanical (4522869) obtained from the Secretary of State website	Downloaded on 7/27/2023	California Secretary of State website at <a href="https://bizfileonline.sos.ca.gov/search/business">https://bizfileonline.sos.ca.gov/search/business</a>
5	Email from DigAlert No ticket for the residence	Received on 8/16/2023	Amber Dahl, DigAlert’s Safety Awareness Director
6	Interview Summary of Esteban Simental, prepared by Gabrielle Zeps	Telephone interview conducted by Gabrielle Zeps on 8/16/2023  This was the first of two interviews with Esteban Simental.	Esteban Simental, ARK Plumbing
7	Interview Summary of Esteban Simental, Jr., prepared by Gabrielle Zeps	Telephone interview conducted by Gabrielle Zeps on 8/16/2023	Esteban Simental, Jr., ARK Plumbing
8	Interview Summary of Esteban Simental prepared by Gabrielle Zeps	Telephone interview conducted by Gabrielle Zeps on 8/22/2023  This was the second of two interviews with Esteban Simental.	Esteban Simental, ARK Plumbing

# Exhibit 1

# Underground Safety No-Ticket



## Your Information

Your First Name

[Redacted]

Your Last Name

[Redacted]

Your Phone Number

[Redacted]

Your E-mail

[Redacted]

## Reviewer Information

Has the information you are submitting today been reviewed or changed by anyone besides yourself?

**No**

## Excavator Information

Company Name

**A.R.K Plumbing**

First Name

**Esteban**

Last Name

**Simental**

Phone Number

**7602007586**

E-mail

**Arkplumbing@gmail.com**

Upload a photo of the company truck, uniform, or business card.





Additional Photo



Additional Photo

Home | Online Services | License Details

### Contractor's License Detail for License # 921951

**DISCLAIMER:** A license status check provides information taken from the CSLB license database. Before relying on this information, you should be aware of the following limitations.

- CSLB complaint disclosures is restricted by law (B&P 7228.5) if this entity is subject to public complaint disclosure click on link that will appear below for more information. Click here for a definition of disclosure actions.
- Only construction related civil judgments reported to CSLB are disclosed (B&P 723.87)
- Adjudications are not listed unless the contractor fails to comply with the terms.
- Due to workload, there may be relevant information that has not yet been entered into the board's license database.

**Business Information**

ARK MECHANICAL  
 PO BOX 3305  
 COACHELLA, CA 92236  
 Business Phone Number (760) 200-7586

Entity: Corporation  
 Issue Date: 05/15/2008  
 Renewal Date: 07/29/2020  
 Expire Date: 07/31/2024

**License Status**

This license is current and active.

All information below should be reviewed.

**Classifications**

CE - PLUMBING

**Bonding Information**

**Online Services Quick Hits**

- Check a License or HSS Registration
- Find My Licensed Contractor
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Forms and Applications
- Guides and Publications
- CSLB Laws and Regulations
- List of All CSLB Fees
- License Classifications
- Contractor Newsletter
- Application Status
- Application Status (Secured)
- Application Status by Personnel Name
- Application Status by Business Name
- CSLB Email Login

**Online Services**

Same for all?

Yes

First Name

[REDACTED]

Last Name

[REDACTED]

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

E-mail

[REDACTED]

checkfields\_excavator

[REDACTED]

Damage

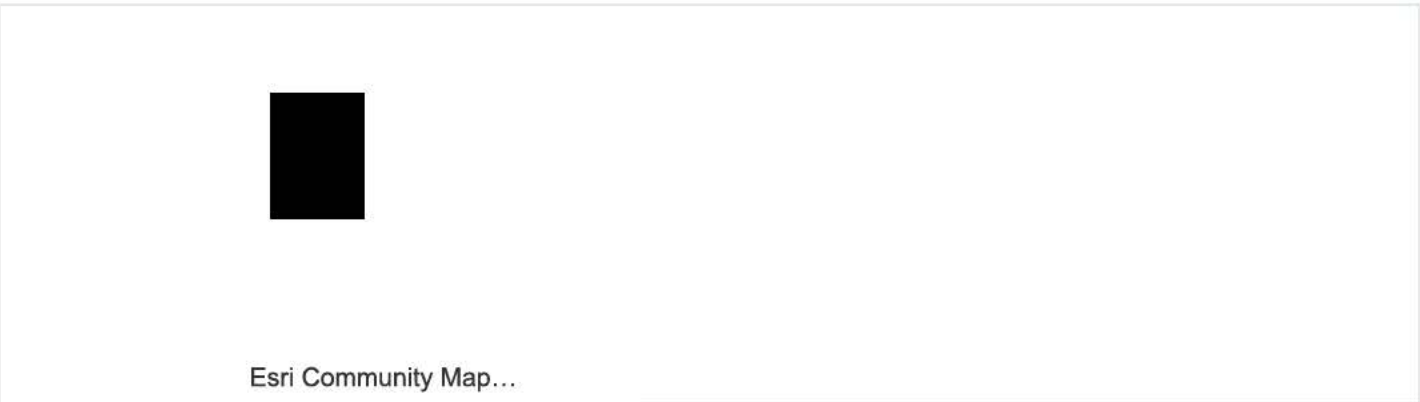
Does this no-ticket complaint involve a damage?

**Yes, damage occurred.**

Location

Indicate location of excavation activity.

[REDACTED]



Describe the observed excavation activity.

**Contractor was excavating looking for a water line when coming across the gas service hitting it cutting it in half causing gas release into the atmosphere.**

Upload photo of excavation location. The photo should be taken at a wide angle and include location identifiers such as buildings in the background, street signs, bridges, freeways, etc.:



Additional Photo



Same for all r

**Yes**

First Name

[Redacted]

Last Name

[Redacted]

Phone Number

[Redacted]

E-mail

[Redacted]

Upload photo, map, survey, or other documentation substantiating the location of your facilities in relation to the observed excavation activity.



First Name

[Redacted]

Last Name

[Redacted]

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

E-mail

[REDACTED]

checkfields\_location

[REDACTED]

Injury?

**No**

Death?

**No**

Fire or evacuation?

**No**

Date you learned of the damage:

**Jul 17, 2023**

Time you learned of the damage:

**10:01**

How did you learn of the damage?

**Internal Email notification**

Supporting Documentation

Same for all?

**Yes**

First Name

[REDACTED]

Last Name

[REDACTED]

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

E-mail

[REDACTED]

Photo 2: First Name

[REDACTED]

Photo 2: Last Name

[REDACTED]

Photo 2: Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Photo 2: E-mail

[REDACTED]

Photo 3: First Name

[REDACTED]

Photo 3: Last Name

[REDACTED]

Photo 3: Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Photo 3: E-mail

[REDACTED]

### Damage Details

Type of Facility damaged?

**Natural Gas**

Tool that caused the damage:

**Shovel**

Upload photo depicting the damaged facility



First Name

[Redacted]

Last Name

[Redacted]

Phone

[Redacted]

E-mail

[Redacted]





# Exhibit 2



## Contractor's License Detail for License # 921951

**DISCLAIMER: A license status check provides information taken from the CSLB license database. Before relying on this information, you should be aware of the following limitations.**

- ▶ CSLB compliance disclosures restricted by law (B&P 7124.6) of this entity is subject to public compliance check on link that will appear below for more information [check here](#) on the denonodscosbecos
- ▶ Any construction related violations reported on Board disclosed (B&P 707.7)
- ▶ Arbitrations are not listed unless the contractor fails to comply with the terms.
- ▶ Due to workload there may be relevant information that has not yet been entered into the board's license database.

Data current as of 9/11/2023 12:54:36 PM

### Business Information

ARK MECHANICAL  
PO BOX 1205  
COACHELLA, CA 92236  
Business Phone Number: (760) 200-7586

**Entity** Corporation  
**Issue Date** 09/10/2008  
**Reissue Date** 07/29/2020  
**Expire Date** **07/31/2024**

### License Status

**This license is current and active.**

All information below should be reviewed.

### Classifications

C36 - PLUMBING

### Bonding Information

#### Contractor's Bond

This license filed a Contractor's Bond with [HUDSON INSURANCE COMPANY](#).

**Bond Number:** 30048537  
**Bond Amount:** \$25,000  
**Effective Date:** 01/01/2023  
[Contractor's Bond History](#)

#### Bond of Qualifying Individual

The qualifying individual RITO ESTEBAN SIMENTAL certified that he/she owns 10 percent or more of the voting stock/membership interest of this company; therefore, the Bond of Qualifying Individual is not required.

**Effective Date:** 07/29/2020

### Workers' Compensation

This license has workers compensation insurance with the [NORGUARD INSURANCE COMPANY](#)

**Policy Number:** ARWC391313  
**Effective Date:** 05/18/2023  
**Expire Date:** 01/07/2024  
[Workers' Compensation History](#)

### Miscellaneous Information

- ▶ 07/29/2020 - LICENSE REISSUED TO ANOTHER ENTITY



# Exhibit 3

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# Business Search

The California Business Search provides access to available information for **corporations**, **limited liability companies** and **limited partnerships** of record with the California Secretary of State, with **free PDF copies** of over 17 million imaged business entity documents, including the most recent imaged Statements of Information filed for Corporations and Limited Liability Companies.

Currently, information for Limited Liability Partnerships (e.g. law firms, architecture firms, engineering firms, public accountancy firms, and land survey firms), General Partnerships, and other entity types are **not contained** in the California Business Search. If you wish to obtain information about LLPs and GPs, submit a Business Entities Order paper form to request copies of filings for these entity types. Note: This search is not intended to serve as a name reservation search. To reserve an entity name, select Forms on the left panel and select Entity Name Reservation ? Corporation, LLC, LP.

## Basic Search

A Basic search can be performed using an entity name or entity number. When conducting a search by an entity number, where applicable, **remove "C"** from the entity number. Note, **a basic search will search only ACTIVE entities** (Corporations, Limited Liability Companies, Limited Partnerships, Cooperatives, Name Reservations, Foreign

ARK PLUMBING, INC. (2868379)



### Request Certificate

Initial Filing Date	03/02/2006
Status	Active
Standing - SOS	Good
Standing - FTB	Good
Standing - Agent	Good
Standing - VCFCF	Good
Formed In	CALIFORNIA
Entity Type	Stock Corporation - CA - General
Principal Address	8434 VINE VALLEY DR SUN VALLEY DR, CA 91352
Mailing Address	8434 VINE VALLEY DR SUN VALLEY DR, CA 91352
Statement of Info Due Date	03/31/2024
Agent	Individual ARARAT MIRZAEIAN 8434 VINE VALLEY DR SUN VALLEY, CA 91352



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contains ?keyword? search. The Advanced search allows for a ?starts with? filter. To search entities that have a status other than active or to refine search criteria, use the **Advanced** search feature.

**Advanced Search**

An Advanced search is required when searching for publicly traded disclosure information or a status other than active.

An Advanced search allows for searching by specific entity types (e.g., Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation) or by entity groups (e.g., All Corporations) as well as searching by ?begins with? specific search criteria.

**Disclaimer:** Search results are limited to the 500 entities closest matching the entered search criteria. If your desired search result is not found within the 500 entities provided, please refine the search criteria using the Advanced search function for additional results/entities. The California Business Search is updated as documents are approved. The data provided is not a complete or certified record.

Although every attempt has been made to ensure that the information contained in the database is accurate, the Secretary of State's office is not responsible for any loss, consequence, or damage resulting directly or indirectly from reliance on the accuracy, reliability, or timeliness of the information that is provided. All such information is provided "as is." To order certified copies or certificates of status, (1) locate an entity using the search; (2)select Request Certificate in the

ARK PLUMBING, INC. (2868379)



Request Certificate

Initial Filing Date	03/02/2006
Status	Active
Standing - SOS	Good
Standing - FTB	Good
Standing - Agent	Good
Standing - VCFCF	Good
Formed In	CALIFORNIA
Entity Type	Stock Corporation - CA - General
Principal Address	8434 VINE VALLEY DR SUN VALLEY DR, CA 91352
Mailing Address	8434 VINE VALLEY DR SUN VALLEY DR,CA91352
Statement of Info Due Date	03/31/2024
Agent	Individual ARARAT MIRZAEIAN 8434 VINE VALLEY DR SUN VALLEY, CA 91352



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ARK PLUMBING, INC. (2868379)



Request Certificate

Results: 2

Entity Information	Initial Filing Date	Sta	
ARK PLUMBING, INC. (1189676)	01/29/1986	Ter	<i>Initial Filing Date</i> 03/02/2006 <i>Status</i> Active <i>Standing - SOS</i> Good <i>Standing - FTB</i> Good <i>Standing - Agent</i> Good <i>Standing - VCFCF</i> Good
ARK PLUMBING, INC. (2868379)	03/02/2006	Act	<i>Formed In</i> CALIFORNIA <i>Entity Type</i> Stock Corporation - CA - General <i>Principal Address</i> 8434 VINE VALLEY DR SUN VALLEY DR, CA 91352 <i>Mailing Address</i> 8434 VINE VALLEY DR SUN VALLEY DR, CA 91352 <i>Statement of Info Due Date</i> 03/31/2024 <i>Agent</i> Individual ARARAT MIRZAEIAN 8434 VINE VALLEY DR SUN VALLEY, CA 91352



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## Business Search

The California Business Search provides access to available information for **corporations**, **limited liability companies** and **limited partnerships** of record with the California Secretary of State, with **free PDF copies** of over 17 million imaged business entity documents, including the most recent imaged Statements of Information filed for Corporations and Limited Liability Companies.

Currently, information for Limited Liability Partnerships (e.g. law firms, architecture firms, engineering firms, public accountancy firms, and land survey firms), General Partnerships, and other entity types are **not contained** in the California Business Search. If you wish to obtain information about LLPs and GPs, submit a Business Entities Order paper form to request copies of filings for these entity types. Note: This search is not intended to serve as a name reservation search. To reserve an entity name, select Forms on the left panel and select Entity Name Reservation ? Corporation, LLC, LP.

### Basic Search

A Basic search can be performed using an entity name or entity number. When conducting a search by an entity number, where applicable, **remove "C"** from the entity number. Note, a **basic search** will search **only ACTIVE entities** (Corporations, Limited Liability Companies, Limited Partnerships, Cooperatives, Name Reservations, Foreign Name Reservations, Unincorporated Common Interest Developments, and Out of State Associations). The basic search performs a contains ?keyword?

ARK MECHANICAL (4522869)



#### Request Certificate

Initial Filing Date	10/18/2019
Status	Active
Standing - SOS	Good
Standing - FTB	Good
Standing - Agent	Good
Standing - VCFCF	Good
Formed In	CALIFORNIA
Entity Type	Stock Corporation - CA - General
Principal Address	84493 RODREJO ST COACHELLA, CA 92236
Mailing Address	PO BOX 1205 COACHELLA, CA92236
Statement of Info Due Date	10/31/2021
Agent	Individual RITO ESTEBAN SIMENTAL 84493 RODREJO ST COACHELLA, CA 92236



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search feature.

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### Advanced Search

An Advanced search is required when searching for publicly traded disclosure information or a status other than active.

An Advanced search allows for searching by specific entity types (e.g., Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation) or by entity groups (e.g., All Corporations) as well as searching by ?begins with? specific search criteria.

**Disclaimer:** Search results are limited to the 500 entities closest matching the entered search criteria. If your desired search result is not found within the 500 entities provided, please refine the search criteria using the Advanced search function for additional results/entities. The California Business Search is updated as documents are approved. The data provided is not a complete or certified record.

Although every attempt has been made to ensure that the information contained in the database is accurate, the Secretary of State's office is not responsible for any loss, consequence, or damage resulting directly or indirectly from reliance on the accuracy, reliability, or timeliness of the information that is provided. All such information is provided "as is." To order certified copies or certificates of status, (1) locate an entity using the search; (2)select Request Certificate in the right-hand detail drawer; and (3) complete your request online.

ARK Mechanicā 

Advanced ▾

## ARK MECHANICAL (4522869)



Request Certificate

Initial Filing Date	10/18/2019
Status	Active
Standing - SOS	Good
Standing - FTB	Good
Standing - Agent	Good
Standing - VCFCF	Good
Formed In	CALIFORNIA
Entity Type	Stock Corporation - CA - General
Principal Address	84493 RODREJO ST COACHELLA, CA 92236
Mailing Address	PO BOX 1205 COACHELLA, CA92236
 Statement of Info Due Date	10/31/2021
Agent	Individual RITO ESTEBAN SIMENTAL 84493 RODREJO ST COACHELLA, CA 92236



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ARK  
MECHANICAL  
(4522869)



10/18/2019

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ARKANSAS  
MECHANICAL  
CONTRACTORS,  
INC. (1543331)



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CALIFORNIA  
CHAPTER OF  
UNIVERSITY OF  
ARKANSAS AT  
PINE BLUFF,  
ARKANSAS  
AGRICULTURAL,  
MECHANICAL,  
AND NORMAL  
COLLEGE  
ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION,  
INCORPORATED  
(1591533)



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ARK MECHANICAL (4522869)



Request  
Certificate

Initial Filing Date 10/18/2019

Status Active

Standing - SOS Good

Standing - FTB Good

Standing - Agent Good

Standing - VCFCF Good

Formed In CALIFORNIA

Entity Type Stock Corporation - CA -  
General

Principal Address 84493 RODREJO ST  
COACHELLA, CA 92236

Mailing Address PO BOX 1205  
COACHELLA, CA 92236

Statement of  
Info Due Date 10/31/2021

Agent Individual  
RITO ESTEBAN SIMENTAL  
84493 RODREJO ST  
COACHELLA, CA 92236



View History



Request Access

# Exhibit 5

**From:** [Amber Dahl](#)  
**To:** [Zeps, Gabrielle@EnergySafety](mailto:Zeps, Gabrielle@EnergySafety)  
**Subject:** RE: Ticket for ARK Plumbing  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 16, 2023 1:06:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Thank you,



**Amber Dahl**, Safety Director

Underground Service Alert of Southern California  
(DigAlert)  
PO Box 77070  
Corona, CA 92877

O: (951) 808-8115 F: (951) 808-8101

E: [amber@digalert.org](mailto:amber@digalert.org) W: [www.digalert.org](http://www.digalert.org)

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**From:** Zeps, Gabrielle@EnergySafety <Gabrielle.Zeps@energysafety.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 16, 2023 1:00 PM  
**To:** Amber Dahl <amber@digalert.org>  
**Subject:** Ticket for ARK Plumbing

Afternoon Amber. Would you please check for a ticket on the following:

ARK Plumbing working at [REDACTED] Palm Desert, California 92211, on July 17, 2023

Would you also please see if there is a ticket for:

A.R.K. Mechanical working at [REDACTED] Palm Desert, California 92211, on July 17, 2023

Thank you.

**Gabrielle Zeps**, Investigator  
California Underground Safety Board  
Mobile: 279-789-1817

[Gabrielle.Zeps@energysafety.ca.gov](mailto:Gabrielle.Zeps@energysafety.ca.gov)

715 P Street, 20th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814



OFFICE OF ENERGY  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
SAFETY

# Exhibit 6



**CALIFORNIA UNDERGROUND FACILITIES SAFE EXCAVATION BOARD  
INVESTIGATION DIVISION  
INTERVIEW REPORT**

**REPORT DATE:** August 16, 2023

**CASE NO:** 23NTS00001

**DATE/TIME OF INTERVIEW:** August 16, 2023, 1:59 PM

**LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:** Telephone

**NAME/ADDRESS OF INTERVIEWEE:**

Esteban Simental  
ARK Mechanical  
P.O. Box 1205  
Coachella, CA 92236

**NARRATIVE:**

- Esteban Simental has no firsthand knowledge of the incident.
- Esteban Simental said they did not have a ticket from a regional call center for the job at [REDACTED], Palm Desert, California, on July 17, 2023.
- Esteban Simental, Jr., and Rosendo Simental were the two employees working the jobsite.
- Esteban Simental is the father of Esteban Simental, Jr., and the brother of Rosendo Simental.
- Esteban Simental says that his son speaks English but that his brother only speaks Spanish.
- The telephone number for Esteban Simental, Jr. is [REDACTED]
- The telephone number for Rosendo Simental is [REDACTED]
- The job was to trench and install a ¾ inch PVC pipe at approximately 15 inches deep.
- They were using shovels only, no machines or excavators ever.
- The gas line was too high – had never seen one like that before.
- They were expecting the gas line to be 30 to 32 inches deep.
- ARK Plumbing is a fictitious name.
- ARK Mechanical is the main name.
- When Esteban Simental attempted to get a license in the name of ARK Plumbing, someone in Los Angeles already had it.

Investigator Name	Supervisor Name
GABRIELLE ZEPS	<i>Brittney Branaman</i>



# Exhibit 7



**CALIFORNIA UNDERGROUND FACILITIES SAFE EXCAVATION BOARD  
INVESTIGATION DIVISION  
INTERVIEW REPORT**

**REPORT DATE:** August 16, 2023

**CASE NO:** 23NTS00001

**DATE/TIME OF INTERVIEW:** August 16, 2023, 2:09 PM

**LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:** Telephone

**NAME/ADDRESS OF INTERVIEWEE:**

Esteban Simental, Jr.

ARK Mechanical

P.O. Box 1205

Coachella, California 92236

**NARRATIVE:**

- Esteban Simental, Jr. has first person knowledge of the natural gas line damage at [REDACTED], Palm Desert, California 92211 on July 17, 2023.
- Esteban Simental, Jr. was digging a trench with a shovel.
- Esteban Simental, Jr. went right through the natural gas line with the shovel.
- Esteban Simental, Jr. thought the natural gas line would be four feet deep or deeper.
- Esteban Simental, Jr. said the natural gas line at [REDACTED], Palm Desert, California 92211 was about two feet deep instead.
- Esteban Simental, Jr. said it happened so quickly.
- Esteban Simental, Jr. said the line that he damaged was an old type, ½ inch orange pipeline instead of the yellow polymer (?) used today.
- Esteban Simental, Jr.'s uncle, Rosendo Simental was at Esteban Simental, Jr.'s side, passing him tools.
  
- Esteban Simental, Jr. has been working plumbing and excavating for about eight to nine years.
- This is the first time he has had an accident.
- After he damaged the natural gas pipeline on July 17, 2023, Esteban Simental, Jr. folded the pipe to release the pressure in the line.
- Esteban Simental, Jr. then put a strap on the line to prevent gas leakage.
- Esteban Simental, Jr. called the "gas company" and told them about the damage and gave them the address.
- Unnamed "gas company" personnel arrived in about 15 minutes of Esteban Simental, Jr. calling the "gas company."
- The "gas company" repair crew arrived next.
- The "gas company" repair crew fixed the gas line, and the trench was covered with dirt.

- The “gas company” company personnel and Esteban Simental, Jr. and Rosendo Simental all left the jobsite.
- ARK Mechanical has not returned to the jobsite to do any further work on the water service line.

Investigator Name	Supervisor Name
GABRIELLE ZEPS	<i>Brittney Branaman</i>

# Exhibit 8



**CALIFORNIA UNDERGROUND FACILITIES SAFE EXCAVATION BOARD  
INVESTIGATION DIVISION  
INTERVIEW REPORT**

**REPORT DATE:** August 22, 2023

**CASE NO:** 23NTS00001

**DATE/TIME OF INTERVIEW:** August 22, 2023, 11:47 AM

**LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:** Telephone

**NAME/ADDRESS OF INTERVIEWEE:**

Esteban Simental  
ARK Plumbing  
P.O. Box 1205  
Coachella, California 92236

**NARRATIVE:**

- Esteban Simental is the owner of ARK Plumbing.
- Esteban Simental, Jr., is his employee with the title of helper.
- Esteban Simental did not contact the regional notification center before starting the job at [REDACTED], Palm Desert, California.
- Esteban Simental did not call “911” after the damage occurred at [REDACTED], Palm Desert, California.
- An unnamed “gas company” guy told Esteban Simental to call the regional notification center to report the damage to the natural gas line at [REDACTED], Palm Desert, California, and he did.

Investigator Name	Supervisor Name
GABRIELLE ZEPS	<i>Brittney Branaman</i>